

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-8, 12-17, and 22, and objected to claims 4-5, 9-11, and 18-21 as dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicated that claims 4-5, 9-11, and 18-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this paper, the Applicants hereby amend independent claims 1 and 15 to recite an “intensified camera” as recited in the allowable dependent claims 4 and 18. In addition, the Applicants hereby add new claims 23-26. These new claims also recite an “intensified camera” as recited in the allowable dependent claims. These amendments do not add any new matter. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-26 will be pending in the present patent application. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1, 15 and their dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatley et al. (U.S. Patent 6,414,458, hereinafter “Hatley”) in view of Allison et al. (U.S. Patent 5,730,528, hereinafter “Allison”), or in view of these combined with the teachings of Doyle (U.S. Patent 6,633,378, hereinafter “Doyle”). As noted above, the Applicants hereby amend the independent claims 1 and 15 to recite an “intensified camera” as recited in the allowable dependent claims 4 and 18. For these reasons, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the foregoing rejections and allowance of all pending claims.

New Claims

As noted above, the Applicants hereby add new claims 23-26. Applicants stress that each of these claims recites features not found in the cited references, taken alone or in hypothetical combination.

For example, new independent claim 23 recites “a robotic arm comprising an inspection head having an intensified camera of a UV based inspection mechanism configured to detect surface defects of the hot gas component, wherein the inspection head is configured to rotate

about a pan axis and a tilt axis relative to the robotic arm, and the robotic arm is configured to move the inspection in a generally axial direction and a generally radial direction toward an interior wall portion of the hot gas component.” The cited references, taken alone or in hypothetical combination, fail to teach or suggest the foregoing claim features.

By further example, new independent claim 25 recites “moving an inspection head in a generally axial direction and a generally radial direction toward an interior wall portion of the hot gas component via a robotic arm coupled to the inspection head; and operating a UV based inspection system having an intensified camera disposed on the inspection head to detect surface defects of the hot gas component.” The cited references, taken alone or in hypothetical combination, fail to teach or suggest the foregoing claim features.

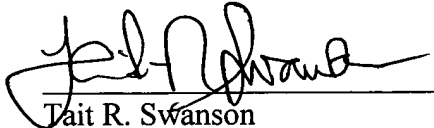
For these reasons among others, the Applicants submit that the new claims 23-26 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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